

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 238-256 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend Claims 230, 231, 234, 235, and 237 as follows.

1-229. (Cancelled)

230. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:
a connection unit, arranged for connecting a detachable external device to said information processing apparatus;

a recognition unit, arranged for recognizing connection of the external device to said information processing apparatus;

a discrimination unit, arranged for discriminating a device type of the external device connected by said connection unit on the basis of data stored in the connected external device; and

a ~~loading~~ switching control unit, arranged for, in response to said recognition unit recognizing connection of the external device, ~~determining selection of~~ controlling switching between obtaining a device driver program provided in the external device, for controlling the connected external device, ~~or~~ and loading a device driver program existing in a memory area provided in said information processing apparatus, for controlling the connected external device, on the basis of the device type discriminated by said discrimination unit, ~~and loading the selected device driver program.~~

231. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 230, further comprising a control unit arranged for controlling the connected external device based on the device driver program ~~loaded by said loading unit~~ obtained from the external device or based on the device driver program existing in the memory area of said information processing apparatus.

232. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 230, further comprising a reading unit arranged for reading data indicating the device type of the connected external device from the external device, wherein said discrimination unit discriminates the device type on the basis of the data read by said reading unit.

233. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 230, wherein said information processing apparatus is an electronic camera.

234. (Currently Amended) A method of loading a device driver program for controlling an external device detachably connected to an information processing apparatus, said method comprising:

a recognizing step of recognizing connection of the external device to the information processing apparatus;

a discriminating step of discriminating a device type of the connected external device on the basis of data stored in the connected external device; and

a ~~loading~~ switching control step of, in response to said recognizing step recognizing connection of the external device, ~~determining selection of~~ controlling switching between obtaining a device driver program provided in the external device ~~or~~ and loading a

device driver program existing in a memory area provided in the information processing apparatus, on the basis of the discriminated device type, ~~and loading the selected device driver program.~~

235. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 234, further comprising a controlling step of controlling the connected external device based on the device driver program ~~loaded in said loading step~~ obtained from the external device or based on the device driver program existing in the memory area of the information processing apparatus.

236. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 234, further comprising a reading step of reading data indicating the device type of the connected external device from the external device, wherein said discriminating step discriminates the device type on the basis of the data read in said reading step.

237. (Currently Amended) A computer program for instructing an information processing apparatus to perform:

a recognizing step of recognizing connection of an external device to the information processing apparatus;

a discriminating step of discriminating a device type of the connected external device on the basis of data stored in the connected external device; and

a ~~loading~~ switching control step of, in response to said recognizing step recognizing connection of the external device, ~~determining selection of~~ controlling switching between obtaining a device driver program provided in the external device ~~or~~ and loading a

device driver program existing in a memory area provided in the information processing apparatus, on the basis of the discriminated device type, ~~and loading the selected device driver program.~~

238-256. (Cancelled)